



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of Alfred Preis and the USS Arizona Memorial

WHEREAS, the late **Alfred Preis** (1911-March 29, 1993) was born and raised in Vienna, Austria, and spent his early architecture career in Vienna until he fled Austria in 1939 in the face of the German annexation of his homeland; eventually settling in Honolulu, where was detained for three months at the Sand Island Detainment Camp in Hawai'i after the December 7, 1941, attack as part of the internment policy of Japanese and German Americans; and

WHEREAS, the late **Alfred Preis**, despite the internment, believed in the "good of the country"; and became an advocate for the blessings of freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, the late **Alfred Preis** was a promoter for arts and culture education in Hawai'i; serving as the first Executive Director of the Hawai'i State Foundation for Culture and the Arts from 1966 to 1980; and

WHEREAS, the late **Alfred Preis**, as Executive Director of the Hawai'i State Foundation for Culture and the Arts, championed a successful effort that, in 1967, made Hawai'i the first State to require companies to donate one percent of construction costs for public art; and, in partnership with the Hawai'i State Department of Education, established the Artists in the Schools Program that provided opportunities for elementary and secondary students in Hawai'i schools to work with local professional artists; and

WHEREAS, the **USS Arizona Memorial** reminds us that Navy planners stipulated that the design should be in the form of a bridge spanning the ship without touching it; and that a committee of US Navy personnel and Pacific War Memorial Commission Board Members accepted proposals from many architectural firms, eventually awarding the honor to construct the memorial to Alfred Preis of Johnson, Perkins, and Preis whose design was open and soaring and would span the USS Arizona, intertwining symbolism and architectural integrity; and

WHEREAS, the late **Alfred Preis** described the architecture of the USS Arizona Memorial as, "wherein the structure sags in the center but stands strong and vigorous at the ends, expresses initial defeat and ultimate victory ... the overall effect is one of serenity ... overtones of sadness have been omitted to permit the individual to contemplate his own personal responses ... his innermost feelings"; and

WHEREAS, the **USS Arizona Memorial**, visited by more than one million people annually, embodies the tragedy and grief of a Nation within an edifice of dignity and grace, and remains a place where the world comes to remember Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, the **USS Arizona Memorial** celebrated its 50th anniversary during Memorial Day Weekend 2012; beginning Friday, May 25, 2012, and concluding on Monday, May 28, 2012, with special events held at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center and on the USS Arizona Memorial;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, BRIAN SCHATZ, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 30, 2012, as

"ALFRED PREIS & USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL DAY"

in Hawai'i and urge the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing Alfred Preis and his contributions to the design of one of the world's most recognizable memorials of World War II.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i this thirtieth day of May, 2012.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

BRIAN SCHATZ
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i